

GET THE MEANING READING: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Students practice reading comprehension and answering short-answer questions

Zone In

Question of the Week

1. Tell students they will present either a YES or NO on the question. They have 2 minutes to put together their argument. They will have 1 minute to present.
2. Question: *Should the legal limit for buying alcohol be lowered to 18?*
3. Group can divide into YES and NO sides; or assign. Each group chooses a Speaker.
4. Time 2 minutes. Each side's Speaker presents for 1 minute.
5. Ask for show of hands—YES, NO.

Topic

Get the meaning reading; short answer questions

(Materials: **Sobriety High ♦♦♦** and **Short Answer Questions Sobriety High ♦♦♦**)

Introduction

What techniques can you use to get the meaning from reading, like in a textbook?

Explain: Look at titles and illustrations for an idea of what it's about (this is called "pre-reading").

- Skim—pay attention to first and last sentences of paragraphs.
- Read more carefully, think about what is coming, and summarize in your head.
- Make notes of main points or underline if you can.
- Skip words you don't know and try to guess the meaning from the rest of the reading (from the "context"). Go back to new words later.

Activity

Students will read about a school for teenagers who have been addicted to drugs or alcohol.

Ask: What do you think such a school might be like? Predict what might be in the article. (Allow very brief responses.)

Explain: As you read, see if your predictions were correct.

- Hand out reading.
- Tell students to answer the True/False and sentence completion questions.
- When they are finished, allow them to compare answers with a neighbor.
- Discuss the answers.

Answers

True/False answers: 1 false 2 true 3 true 4 false 5 true 6 true 7 true 8 true

Sentence completion answers: 1 end up 2 hung out with 3 grew up 4 keep up

Be sure everyone understood that the sentence completions called for changing the verb tense. The verbs “hang” and “grow” had to go into the past tense.

Wrap Up

Were students’ predictions correct? Is the school what they thought it would be before reading the article?



CLINIC 16 HANDOUT

SOBRIETY HIGH

Case History 1: Lior

Lior, 15, was suspended several times from his school for being high on drugs. If you think that kids who use drugs always come from poor, uneducated families, Lior shows that this isn't true. His mom's a college professor. But the kids he hung out with at school were all taking drugs. "I was doing cocaine, acid and anything else I could get at school," Lior says. "I didn't really get to be a kid because I was always getting high."

Case History 2: Sarah

Sarah grew up with an alcoholic, drug addict mom and when she was only 13 she left home to be around drugs and drug dealers. She ended up being forced to work as a prostitute for one of the drug dealers so that she could pay for her habit. She was 14. Eventually one day she managed to escape and she called her mom, who came and rescued her. Sarah says she feels safe now.

How it started

Before Sobriety High opened in 1989, kids who got involved in drugs and alcohol received treatment for their chemical addictions. But after their treatment finished, they were sent back to the school and neighborhood where the abuse had originated, and many of them returned to their old habits. Sobriety High was started in order to provide a safe, sober environment for kids to recover in.

Who goes there

Sobriety High is for kids 14- to 18-years-old. They come from all sectors of society. There are about 45 students at the school, four teachers and a special education consultant. Apart from the fact that they are recovering addicts, they are quite normal and enjoy all the same things which ordinary kids like doing.

The students' promise

They sign a form when they arrive at the school promising not to take any drugs or use alcohol. If they break this promise, they are suspended—they will be made to leave the school for a period of time. If they keep offending, they may never be allowed to return.

How it works

Sobriety High was built in a secluded location in Minneapolis, mid-west USA. There is a reason for this—the kids are usually running from the people they've been drinking or doing drugs with. "Students feel protected here," Judi Hanson, the school principal, says. "At Sobriety High they are safe." The students often call Judi "Mom" and confide in her. They attend therapy sessions where they talk about their experiences, which can often be very emotional. They also attend regular classes in the usual school subjects and many of them later go to a university or college.

Learning to have fun without drugs

Sobriety High is not just about getting over painful experiences. It's important for the kids to learn to have a good time just like other kids do. At the high school prom (the yearly dance for classes of high school students) there isn't any alcohol, and at parties they only drink Coke and eat burgers. But they still laugh and have fun. Perhaps the kids at Sobriety High learn one thing that is the best lesson of all: the value of trust and friendship.



SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

SOBRIETY HIGH

Activity 1: Comprehension

Read the sentences about Sobriety High. Are they true or false? Circle the correct answer.

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| 1. All kids who go to Sobriety High are from areas of poverty and unemployment. | T | F |
| 2. Lior didn't have a proper childhood because he was always on drugs. | T | F |
| 3. Sarah had to do some terrible things to pay for her drug addiction. | T | F |
| 4. Drug or alcohol addicted kids who don't go to Sobriety High normally go to live in a new place when their therapy and treatment finishes. | T | F |
| 5. Sobriety High makes students agree to a contract of behavior while they are at school. | T | F |
| 6. Sometimes kids are taken out of school for breaking their promise not to drink alcohol or use drugs. | T | F |
| 7. The school principal becomes like a mother to the kids at Sobriety High. | T | F |
| 8. Like other schools in the USA, social events, like proms, are important at Sobriety High. | T | F |

Activity 2: Sentence Completion

Write the correct multi-word verbs to fill the gaps in the sentences.

grew up

end up

hung out with

keep up

The kind of kids who (1) _____ going to Sobriety High are the same as ordinary kids, except that they are recovering alcoholics or drug addicts. They may have (2) _____ a bad crowd at school or perhaps they (3) _____ with parents who abused drugs or alcohol, having to steal to (4) _____ their habits.